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EXAMINER

PHAM, THANH V

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Preliminary Amendment filed 11/04/2005 canceling claims 1-15 out of 17 claims in the original set of claims (filed the same day) and listed new set of claims starting at new claim 16 through new claim 28 ignoring original ly filed claims 16-17. Another Amendment filed 11/30/2006 still ignored originally filed claims 16-17. Therefore, two claims 16 and two claims 17 are co-existing.

/THANH Van PHAM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2894
07/24/2008